

Daily Pilot

FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2024 /// dailypilot.com

Ruling deemed a win for public

After O.C. judge calls for release of H.B.'s air show settlement, plaintiff points to importance of government transparency.

BY MATT SZABO

The city of Huntington Beach's complete settlement with the Pacific Airshow has been kept from the public for more than a year, but that could quickly change in the coming days.

Orange County Superior Court Judge Jonathan Fish ruled in favor of Gina Clayton-Tarvin on Wednesday, writing that the city and City Atty. Michael Gates must release the full multimillion-dollar settlement with Pacific Airshow LLC.

Clayton-Tarvin, a Huntington Beach resident and longtime Ocean View School District Board of Trustees member, filed suit last

See **Ruling**, page A2

Accused doctor's license revoked

Huntington Beach physician faces criminal, civil charges alleging sexual assault and harassment of patients.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

A Huntington Beach doctor accused of sexually assaulting his patients is losing his medical license, an action that will go into effect in June, according to state documents.

Dr. William Thompson IV committed gross negligence in his care for his patients, sexual misconduct, record-keeping and for the reckless use of alcohol, according to documents signed May 15 by Reji Varghese, executive director for the Medical Board of California. For that

See **Revoked**, page A2



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

HONORARY GATE-OPENER Kenna Lee, far right, watches as one of several brown pelicans are released at Corona Del Mar State Beach near the harbor on Thursday. The large birds were successfully rehabilitated at the Wetlands & Wildlife Care Center in Huntington Beach.



ONE OF several brown pelicans is released back into the wild.



MICAH KNOX, 5, says goodbye to two of the brown pelicans.

10 down, 100 to go: Pelicans released after rehabilitation

Volunteers gathered at Corona del Mar State Beach Thursday to release birds threatened by a mass starvation event that's gripping O.C. and the state.

BY SARA CARDINE

With a flutter and a flap — and much excitement from human onlookers — 10 brown pelicans were released Thursday at Corona del Mar State Beach, having survived a mass starvation event that's perplexed wildlife officials up and down California's coast.

Volunteers with the nonprofit Wetlands & Wildlife Care Center released what they anticipate to be the first of several rounds of rehabilitated seabirds that began arriving at the Huntington Beach facility in early April and are still trickling in.

"We have 10 healthy, fat pelicans back in the wild and 100 more to go," Debbie McGuire, the center's executive director, said after the Thursday morning release.

The occasion was a brief but happy moment in what's been more than a month of devastation as wildlife agencies and rehabilitation centers report untold numbers of starved and emaciated brown pelicans from Santa Cruz County southward to San Diego and Baja.

A similar incident happened in

See **Pelicans**, page A3



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

LIBRARY MEDIA technician Jacquelyn Casella stands with a few hundred of the Mariners Elementary Comicon artworks, produced by students, on the school's library wall on Thursday.

Mariners Elementary hosts Comicon to help students 'find their people'

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Glen Juniper looked proudly at a paper box mounted on a wall at the Mariners Elementary School library Thursday afternoon.

Glen, 9, said he made it over a weekend with his sister to fill up the time. It was supposed to be a jack-in-the-box, he explained. As he walked alongside a wall full of drawings, crafts and other artworks produced by students from the school, he pointed to more of his contributions: a box of french fries crafted from paper, a paper flower "gone wrong," he joked, and a paper replica of boba and a

few other snacks.

"All the food stuff I made before lunch," Glen said, laughing.

Those were but a few of his 11 submissions that he made for his school's Comicon, an event organized by campus librarians that started quietly last year.

Library media technician Jacquelyn Casella said the idea for Comicon — a reference to Comic Con, a convention in San Diego that celebrates comics and other elements of pop culture, drawing hundreds of thousands of visitors annually — came about after a student spoke to her last year about not feeling "seen" because

he didn't play sports.

"I said, 'Well, guess what. We're going to change that right now.' Next month, we did our first Comicon. The whole idea was to draw whatever you wanted because that's how you find your people. We had kids coming out of the woodwork because they had their work up and they were getting seen because of what was happening," Casella said. "What we did [this year] is they get to turn in something over a period of two weeks. Whatever gets turned in gets put out there and

See **Comicon**, page A3

TERRANEA
PALOS VERDES, CA

LUXURY ON THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COAST

Rates From \$595

855.804.9668 | TERRANEA.COM | #TERRANEA

JONES CUP COMMUNITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Shady Canyon defends home course again

BY ANDREW TURNER

IRVINE — Shadows had formed over the 18th green as the hosts looked to close out their third win in as many tries on their home course in the 25th annual Jones Cup community golf tournament.

The drama had climaxed one hole earlier, and Brian Gunson, the man that supplied it, cleaned up a tap-in for par to give the trophy back to Shady Canyon on Wednesday in Irvine.

A roar could be heard from the green on the last hole after Gunson, the director of golf at Shady Canyon, sunk a long putt for birdie on the par-three No. 17, vaulting his club past Santa Ana with one hole remaining.

"I think you go through the whole round, and you're trying so hard for your team," said Gunson, the Shady Canyon captain. "You're trying to make a birdie, just to get the team a little bit more under par, and everybody's sort of doing their little bit."

"To make something like that happen, to create the joy from the crowd and the team, and then to take the lead, ultimately, it's what we always strive for and what we're here for."

Shady Canyon, which finished at 14 under par in the two-best-ball format, rallied past Santa Ana (-12).

The Jones Cup, played between five country clubs that also include Big Canyon, Mesa Verde and Newport Beach, has been played with five-person teams since its sixth year.

A captain, a club professional, and the club's men's, women's and senior champions, participate in



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

MEMBERS OF the Shady Canyon Golf Club celebrate on the 18th green after winning the 25th annual Jones Cup golf tournament at their home course on Wednesday.

the annual competition. Shady Canyon went on the course with a quintet that included Gunson, club pro Kyle Bezuidenhout, ladies' champion Kelly Ly, men's champion Eoin Middaugh and senior champion Charles Kavanaugh. Middaugh produced a tournament-best seven birdies.

The host club has won 10 of the last 20 times the tournament has taken place. Shady Canyon has successfully defended its course in each of its three opportunities, the others coming in 2014 and 2019.

"It's a highlight of my golfing year," Gunson said. "You try to get your game in shape. I've practiced more in the last three days than I have in the last five

years, so it's just exciting to perform under the pressure, and eventually, just to lift the trophy."

Nico Bollini, whose steady play provided four birdies and 13 pars for Santa Ana, left the course hopeful that his team had done enough. The club's men's champion also credited women's champion Kaley In (three birdies) with clutch play down the stretch.

"On the front nine, we kind of had it going, and it could have been a really good front nine because every single hole, ... we had looks every hole," Bollini said. "We had three or four people with birdie opportunities. We just didn't make nearly as many putts as we could have."

"The back nine, we still played solid, but when it starts going the other way, you start feeling the nerves and the pressure of the other players in the group. It is a unique environment because you're all on the same team, you're all rallying around each other, and then you're trying to pick somebody up."

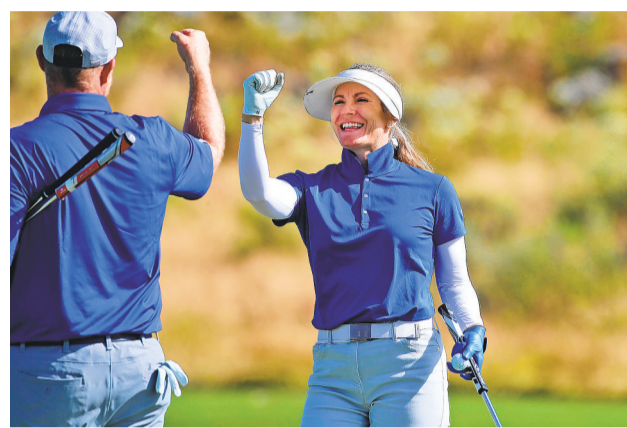
Multiple golfers described the greens as "firm and fast" for Wednesday's event.

The afternoon saw a trio of eagles drop in. Newport Beach captain Robin Shelton and Santa Ana senior champion Brandon Goethals got theirs on the par-five No. 3.

Mesa Verde senior champion Mitch Allenspach also eagled the



KELLY LY, from Shady Canyon, reacts to a birdie putt that missed by inches on the 18th hole on Wednesday.



MESA VERDE Country Club's Kim Izzi smiles after a birdie putt during the Jones Cup on Wednesday at Shady Canyon.

par-five No. 7, adding three birdies to match club professional Mike Fergin (five birdies) for the most strokes gained for his team.

"I hit a drive that we don't know what happened, but it had to have hit a cart path," Allenspach said of his eagle. "A par-five that you normally have over 200 [yards] in, I had 145, so that was a big part of the help. I hit a wedge to whatever that distance was, and then rolled in a nice sliding 25-footer. That

helped a lot." A five-birdie back nine for senior champion Will Tipton was the highlight for third-place Big Canyon (-11). Olivia Slutzky, the Newport Beach-based club's women's champion, sank three birdies, matching In for the most among female competitors.

Mesa Verde (-10) placed fourth, and Newport Beach (-7) was fifth in this year's Jones Cup.

andrewturner@latimes.com
Twitter: @AndrewTurnerTCN

Daily Pilot

A Times Community News publication.

CONTACT US

Carol Cormaci
Executive Editor
carol.cormaci@latimes.com

Beth Raff
Advertising Manager
(424) 225-9928
beth.raff@latimes.com

10540 Talbert Ave., Suite 300 West, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Reporters:
Sara Cardine, Costa Mesa
sara.cardine@latimes.com
Sarah Mosqueda, TimesOC
sarah.mosqueda@latimes.com
Lilly Nguyen, Newport Beach
lilly.nguyen@latimes.com

Gabriel San Román, TimesOC
gabriel.sanroman@latimes.com

Matt Szabo, Huntington Beach and Sports
matthew.szabo@latimes.com

Andrew Turner, Laguna Beach and Sports
andrewturner@latimes.com

Send Letters to the Editor to erik.haugli@latimes.com. See Mailbag for guidelines.

The Daily Pilot, established in 1907, is published Thursday through Sunday by Times Community News, a division of the Los Angeles Times. Subscriptions are available only by subscribing to The Times, Orange County.

© 2024 Times Community News. All rights reserved.

REVOKED

Continued from page A1

reason, his medical license will be revoked on June 14, and Thompson will be required to pay \$111,280 for investigation and enforcement of the case.

Thompson was arrested in September 2023 on charges of the sexual assault and harassment of at least nine of his former patients under the guise of being necessary medical exams. He is currently

out on bail, according to court records.

The Orange County district attorney's office, at the time of his arrest, said Thompson had also been arrested in April 2021 on suspicion of driving under the influence.

Thompson, 56, was an infectious disease doctor who provided general practice services for patients in the LGBTQ+ community and was previously affiliated with Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian. Thompson's license was set to expire at

the end of August but was suspended until the new order earlier this month.

A civil lawsuit that represents at least 73 people was filed against both Thompson and Hoag in late December, alleging the hospital was culpable. The hospital issued a statement on that lawsuit in January, stating it condemned his behavior and confirmed his clinical privileges were revoked after criminal charges were filed against him.

The Daily Pilot reported earlier this year that

Thompson faced 21 charges.

That number has since grown to more than 40 counts, including sexual battery by fraud, forcible oral copulation, sexual penetration by means of fraudulent representation, public offense and sexual battery.

Thompson has pleaded not guilty to all charges. He is expected to next appear in court in July at the Harbor Justice Center.

lilly.nguyen@latimes.com
Twitter: @lillybirds

RULING

Continued from page A1

June after her California Public Records Act request asking for the full settlement was not honored. Instead, Gates issued an executive summary of it, outlining its financial deals of the settlement with the air show operator, numbering up to about \$7 million.

"This is really about public transparency and doing right by taxpayers," Clayton-Tarvin said. "Frankly, the fact that Mr. Gates sequestered this information from the public for so long is truly unconstitutional. The California Constitution and the California Public Records Act make it very clear that the public interest is there when you're talking about spending tax dollars. The information had to be released to me, there was no other decision."

Gates had said that he wasn't releasing the full settlement due to possible litigation by the city against the parties responsible for the oil spill. The pipeline began leaking on Oct. 1, 2021, ultimately leading to the cancellation of the final day of that year's Pacific Airshow.

A city-led lawsuit has not yet been filed, however, and Gates has said publicly he would release the full settlement if a judge ruled that he must do so.

Gates said in a statement Wednesday that he thought



James Carbone

HUNDREDS OF people stand along the Huntington Beach Pier at the opening ceremonies of the Pacific Airshow on Sept. 30, 2022, a year after an oil spill shortened the event.

Fish's direction and rationale were clear and that he planned to comply with the court's order, barring any different direction given to him by the conservative majority City Council.

If the council votes to pursue an appeal of Fish's decision, Clayton-Tarvin said she would take the case all the way to the California Supreme Court, if necessary.

"It was my decision alone, not City Council's, to hold the release of the air show settlement agreement," Gates said. "My decision was based on conversations with outside counsel representing the city's pending oil spill lawsuit. The goal in holding the release was only to ensure that the city's best position was not compromised by the release."

Fish's ruling noted the city did not have "pending litigation" at all, declining to adopt the city's May 13 argument for a broader, Brown Act-based definition of the term.

"Having conducted an in-camera review of the

settlement agreement, the court does not agree with the city's contention that the scale 'clearly tips in favor of non-disclosure,'" Fish wrote. "As stated by our high court: Implicit in the democratic process is the notion that government should be accountable for its actions. In order to verify accountability, individuals must have access to government files. Such access permits checks against the arbitrary exercise of official power and secrecy in the political process."

Another aspect of the settlement is that the state Joint Legislative Audit Committee, on state Sen. Dave Min's request, approved an audit of the settlement agreement with Pacific Airshow LLC via a bipartisan vote on May 14.

On Tuesday, Gates wrote a letter to California state auditor Grant Parks and Assemblyman Gregg Hart, the JLAC chair. He said the city remains in staunch opposition to the audit, which he said does not preempt Huntington Beach's local authority as a charter city.

"The city will continue to object and will pursue any legal action necessary to protect the city's rights and prevent the state's interference into the city's municipal affairs," Gates wrote, adding that he believes the audit is improper and not consistent with state law.

Min (D-Irvine), who represents a portion of Huntington Beach in the 37th Senate District, responded in a statement. "What is Huntington Beach City Atty. Michael Gates trying to hide? His claim that the city of Huntington Beach is not subject to the state's audit authority is ridiculous and baseless. But more importantly, why is he fighting so hard to try to hide the facts around the Pacific Airshow settlement that he apparently played a big part in negotiating? City Atty. Gates doth protest too much. The residents of Huntington Beach deserve transparency in their government, and they will get it."

Clayton-Tarvin, represented by Gregory Pleasants along with Brett Murdock, said that upon receipt of the full air show settlement, she would release it to the state auditor and also make it available to any resident or taxpayer who wants to see it.

"[The ruling] is a win for the residents of Huntington Beach, and it's a win for openness and transparency in government," she said. "Our government should be honest with us. We shouldn't be told to just sit down and shut up and take it. That's not how it works in America. We have the right to know, and we will know."


matthew.szabo@latimes.com
Twitter: @mjszabo

MARKETPLACE

To place an ad, go to
<http://timescommunityadvertising.com/>

Legal Notices Legal Notices Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Planning Commission
Council Chambers
505 Forest Avenue
Laguna Beach, CA 92651
Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at 6:00 PM

The CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH will hold a public hearing on the request below. You may participate in-person at City Hall. Case No.: Design Review 23-2036 & Variance 24-0038 Address: 520 Cliff Drive | APN: 496-183-09 Applicant: Jeffrey Riggs Property Owner: Julie D Gallant Trust Application Filing Date: April 20, 2023 PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant requests approval of a Design Review and a Variance to install eight new roof-mounted air conditioning units and one ground-mounted air conditioning unit on an existing building located in the R-3 (Residential High Density) zone. Design Review is required for the proposed mechanical equipment. A Variance is required to exceed the maximum allowable height. Previously approved projects on the property include but are not limited to: Variance 1475. COASTAL ZONE: This project is located within an appealable area of the Coastal Zone. The proposed Project constitutes development but is exempt from the Coastal Development Permit requirement. (See LPMC Section 25.07.008(A)(2)). Information regarding California Coastal Commission appeal processes can be found at LPMC Section 25.07.008(C) and <https://www.coastal.ca.gov/cdp/cdp-forms.html>. CEQA: Staff recommends the Planning Commission determine that the proposed project is categorically exempt pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, Section 15301 - Existing Facilities, in that the project consists of the repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing structures or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. MORE INFORMATION: The property is required to be staked with survey poles at least 21 calendar days prior to the hearing. The agenda packet will be available on the City's website at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled public hearing (<https://www.lagunabeachcity.net/live-here/city-council-meetings-agendas-and-minutes>) and at the Community Development Department public center during the following hours: Monday - Thursday: 7:30am - 3:00pm and 7:30am - 12:00 p.m. alternating Fridays (closed alternating Fridays). HOW TO COMMENT: If you have any comments or concerns about the proposed project, please communicate those thoughts in writing to **Garrett Wank, Associate Planner** at gwank@lagunabeachcity.net, or by phone at (949) 464-6626. In order to allow sufficient time for members of the Planning Commission and staff to review and consider your written comments, written public comments will be accepted for consideration up until the close of business (i.e., 5:30 p.m.) on the business day before the date on which the Public Hearing is scheduled. Comments may also be made during the Public Hearing in person in the Council Chambers. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with a disability who require a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in a meeting may request such modification or accommodation from the Planning Division at (949) 497-0713. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to the meeting. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65099(b), if you challenge this project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Laguna Beach at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Mark's Painting & Handyman Service
714-222-3055
Wood Restoration Specialist
Licensed & Bonded
C-33-#967860

COMICON

Continued from page A1

spotlighted. So, everyone goes, 'Oh my gosh, look at what they did!'"

Casella said one of her favorite stories out of Comicon was that a student she knew was able to come out of her shell because other students saw what she made and liked her work.

Casella said she received more than 100 pieces from students among all grades. Some were even three-dimensional or included an aspect of performance.

Of his interest in art and crafting, Glen said, "If I have the time, I'll just do something fun like design something for like a company or what they'll sell. Logos and stuff. I like doing [interactive pieces] because, instead of just being a picture on a piece of paper, you can interact with it. I think they stand out more because they pop up."

Some of his submissions took a day, while others took a few hours.

Last year, he crafted Hedwig, a messenger owl from the Harry Potter series, to sit on his shoulder. He said he didn't think he'd be able to participate this year but decided the day before submissions opened that he would after all.

"It was like, 'Oh, maybe I'll just do a tiny little thing.' But it started getting bigger and bigger because it was so much fun,"



Courtesy of Jacquelyn Casella

GLEN JUNIPER, 9, poses with a few of the entries he made for the Mariners Elementary Comicon.

he said.

Glen said he liked that he was encouraged to participate by his teachers and librarians. He said he sometimes worked on projects with other students and was hopeful he'd be able to sell some of the items.

"They love talking about all the things they made," Casella said. "You'll see the kids pull the adults and the library staff is staying after hours because the little ones are saying, 'You want to see something cool? I made that,' and then they talk about it. They're so proud of themselves and I don't think that they get a chance to participate in things where it's not about quality but about the experience."

Casella pointed out one piece that had a single, filled-in circle on it.

"This one brought them

together because it made all of them go, 'Wait. You put that up?' and I said, 'Yeah, because someone made it.' They get it and they're comfortable. They're usually a little shy when they turn it in unless they know me, but then they'll say that they're going to make 10 more and now I'm running out of wall space," she said, laughing as she gestured to the ceiling-to-floor decorated walls.

Throughout the library, illustrations and interactive pieces adorned walls and bookshelves. Casella said some submissions were rushed over by parents before Comicon opened because of how important it was to some of the kids to get something up.

"It's teaching them that you don't have to be No. 1. You don't have to have a certain skill and we can celebrate everything you want to do. Everyone can do it, and everyone does, and that's the thing. Kids lose their minds over the simplest thing ... because they're at the perfect age where it's just joy and wonder. It's not like a museum, where you go, 'Well, it's the best of the best,'" Casella said. "Look at the energy here. They talk about everything, and it's just magic."



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

MORE THAN 100 artworks were submitted to the Mariners Elementary Comicon at the school's library.

lilly.nguyen@latimes.com
Twitter: @lillibirds

PELICANS

Continued from page A1

spring of 2022 when some 800 birds were rendered flightless from starvation, mostly near Santa Barbara County. About half were treated and safely returned to the wild, according to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

This time around, however, Orange County has been ground zero for the sighting of brown pelicans suffering not only from critically low body weight, hypothermia and dehydration but parasites, fishing line entanglements and hook-related injuries.

The Wetlands & Wildlife Care Center has so far taken in 213 brown pelicans. Two enclosures — one for ducks and another for pelagic, water-dwelling birds — were commandeered for the new arrivals, while pup tents were erected to handle the overflow. Of those rescued birds, 105 have died, mostly due to extreme malnourishment.

"A few were dead on arrival, they were caught alive but didn't make the trip," McGuire said. "Most of them died within the first few hours of care, they were so critical, and about 10% had to be euthanized because their injuries were so bad."

Some of the deceased birds are being sent to CD-WF's Wildlife Health Laboratory for further study, as



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

VOLUNTEERS JOHN VILLA and Laurie Camody wheel cages containing rehabilitated brown pelicans ready for release at Corona Del Mar State Beach Thursday.

officials with the department work alongside scientists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to determine what could be causing the widespread starvation.

Populations of mackerel, anchovies and smelt, which comprise the bulk of the pelican diet, are currently plentiful in the Pacific, constituting an ample food source for other seabirds, such as cormorants, loons and grebes.

But unlike those species, which can plunge deep into the ocean to snag fish, pelicans are much shallower divers and may not be able to reach prey living at greater depths than usual.

"Why are the fish so low? That's what we need to figure out," McGuire said,

wondering whether an oceanic transition from El Niño-related warm water patterns to cooler La Niña waters may be having an impact.

Meanwhile recovering pelicans continue to dominate the Huntington Beach Care Center, requiring up to 500 pounds of bait fish each day. An early donation from Redondo Beach Sportfishing & Whale Watch, followed by a discounted rate, is helpful, but much more will be needed in the days and weeks ahead.

"I should place an order today," McGuire said Thursday. "It's a long weekend, I probably need a ton — literally."

sara.cardine@latimes.com
Twitter: @SaraCardine

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

S	H	A	G	G	M	A	T	B	R	A	I	N
W	A	V	E	L	O	S	E	R	E	U	S	E
E	V	E	N	A	V	I	A	B	A	S	E	S
P	E	R	E	N	N	I	A	L	S	S	T	E
T	N	T	I	C	E	O	D	O	R			
			B	L	E	S	S	F	I	N	A	L
F	A	L	S	E	S	T	A	R	T	S	L	E
L	M	A	O		A	R	E	R	I	O	T	
E	M	U		S	T	R	I	N	G	B	E	A
D	O	G	E	A	R	S	E	A	L	S		
		H	D	M	I		G	R	E	A	P	E
S	T	A	G		G	R	E	A	T	D	A	N
O	R	B	I	T		O	L	D	E	L	I	E
S	A	L	E	S		T	I	E	R	O	K	R
O	P	E	R	A		S	A	S	S	E	A	S

8	3	4	1	6	2	7	9	5
1	9	5	7	3	8	4	2	6
7	6	2	5	4	9	3	8	1
6	8	7	2	1	3	5	4	9
4	2	1	9	5	6	8	3	7
9	5	3	4	8	7	1	6	2
5	7	9	3	2	4	6	1	8
3	1	8	6	9	5	2	7	4
2	4	6	8	7	1	9	5	3

Get the FREE TimesOC newsletter.

Orange County's most essential stories in your inbox.

Every Wednesday, get the news that matters most to your community in the TimesOC newsletter, with the latest on issues from business and immigration to food and what to do this weekend. It's the top local stories from the Daily Pilot, the L.A. Times and TimesOC — all delivered straight to you.



Scan the code or visit latimes.com/timesOCnewsletter to sign up now.

60 SEASONS South Coast Repertory

Family-friendly theatre — LIVE under the stars!

Outside SCR

at MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

The OLD MAN and The OLD MOON

Book, music and lyrics by **PigPen Theatre Co.**

Directed by **Kim Martin-Cotten**

JULY 20 - AUG. 11

OUTSIDE SCR SEASON PRODUCERS

Apriem Advisors
Michael Ray

HONORARY PRODUCERS
Susan Shieldkret & David Dull

MEDIA PARTNER
PBS SoCal

An epic adventure across land, sea and sky—all in the name of love! Indie-folk music and ingenious staging transform this tall tale into a thrilling theatrical event like no other.

Recommended for or swashbucklers and yarn-spinners ages 7 to 97.



60TH SEASON SPONSOR



(714) 708-5555
SCR.org



LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF COSTA MESA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Costa Mesa City Council at the regular meeting on Tuesday, June 4, 2024 at 7:00 P.M., or as soon as possible thereafter, regarding Reauthorization of the Business Improvement Area (BIA) assessment of three percent (3%) for certain Costa Mesa hotels and motels for Fiscal Year 2024-25, Resolution 2024-16 attached.

Public Comments:

Members of the public wishing to participate in the meeting may find instructions to participate on the agenda. Members of the public may also submit written comments via email to the City Clerk at cityclerk@costamesaca.gov and they will be provided to the City Council, made available to the public, and will be part of the meeting record. Any written communications, photos, or other materials for copying and distribution to the City Council that are 10 pages or less, can be e-mailed to cityclerk@costamesaca.gov, submitted to the City Clerk's Office on a flash drive, or mailed to the City Clerk's Office. Kindly submit materials to the City Clerk AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, BUT NO LATER THAN 12:00 p.m. on the day of the hearing, June 4, 2024. All materials, pictures, PowerPoints, and videos submitted for display at a public meeting must be previously reviewed by staff to verify appropriateness for general audiences. No links to YouTube videos or other streaming services will be accepted, a direct video file will need to be emailed to staff prior to each meeting in order to minimize complications and to play the video without delay. The video must be one of the following formats, .mp4, .mov or .wmv. Only one file may be included per speaker for public comments. Please note that materials submitted by the public that are deemed appropriate for general audiences will not be redacted in any way and will be posted online as submitted, including any personal contact information. For further assistance, contact the City Clerk's Office at (714) 754-5225. The City Council agenda and related documents may also be viewed on the City's website at http://costamesaca.gov, 72 hours prior to the public hearing date. IF THE AFOREMENTIONED ACTION IS CHALLENGED IN COURT, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in the notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Brenda Green, City Clerk, City of Costa Mesa
Published on May 24, 2024

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-16

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA, DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO LEVY AN ANNUAL ASSESSMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 FOR A BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA COVERING CERTAIN COSTA MESA HOTELS AND MOTELS AND SETTING THE TIME AND PLACE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSAL

WHEREAS, in adopting the Parking and Business Improvement Area Law of 1989 (California Streets and Highways Code sections 36500, et seq.), the California Legislature authorized cities to levy assessments on businesses in order to promote economic revitalization and tourism, to create jobs, attract new businesses, and prevent erosion of business districts; and WHEREAS, on July 5, 1995, by Ordinance No. 95-9, the City Council adopted a business improvement area, commonly known as the Costa Mesa Tourism & Promotion Business Improvement Area ("BIA"), the purpose of which is to promote tourism to the City and to fund programs and activities that benefit the hotel and motel businesses within the City of Costa Mesa; and WHEREAS, the eleven (11) hotels and motels listed in Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference, are currently subject to the assessment; and WHEREAS, the City Council appointed the general managers of the 11 hotels and motels subject to the assessment to serve as the advisory board as required by California Streets and Highways Code section 36530; and WHEREAS, said advisory board is known as Travel Costa Mesa ("TCM"); and WHEREAS, the City Council has voted to continue the special assessment for the BIA each year since its inception, and it has been levied upon the 11 hotel and motel businesses listed in Exhibit A; and WHEREAS, in January 2000, the City Council approved an increase in the assessment, raising the assessment from one percent (1%) to two percent (2%) based on the sale of overnight room stays; and WHEREAS, in November 2010, the City Council approved an increase in the assessment, raising the assessment from two percent (2%) to three percent (3%) based on the sale of overnight room stays; and WHEREAS, the City desires to levy and collect a three percent (3%) assessment within the BIA for Fiscal Year 2024-2025; and WHEREAS, this Resolution of Intention will commence proceedings under the Parking and Business Improvement Area Law of 1989 to levy the annual assessment of the Costa Mesa Tourism & Promotion Business Improvement Area for the 2024-25 Fiscal Year; and WHEREAS, the Agenda Report and its attachments for the May 7, 2024 City Council meeting filed with the City Clerk set forth a detailed description of the activities to be provided in the 2024-25 Fiscal Year, the boundaries of the Business Improvement Area, the benefit zone of the area, and the proposed assessments to be levied upon the businesses within the area for the coming fiscal year. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Costa Mesa as follows:

Section 1. Intention: Assessment. The City Council hereby declares its intention to levy and collect assessments in the Costa Mesa Tourism & Promotion Business Improvement Area for Fiscal Year 2024-25 pursuant to California Streets & Highways Code §§ 36500, et seq. The boundaries of the Costa Mesa Tourism & Promotion Business Improvement Area are the 11 motels and hotels listed in Exhibit A. The proposed amount of the annual assessment is three percent (3%) based on the sale of overnight room stays. New hotel and motel businesses commenced after the effective date of the resolution levying the assessment will be exempt from the levy of assessment, pursuant to California Streets & Highways Code § 36531.

Section 2. Annual Report. An annual report on the Costa Mesa Tourism & Promotion Business Improvement Area has been prepared by TCM, acting as the advisory board, as required by California Streets & Highways Code §§ 36533 and 36534. Said report is on file in the City Clerk's Office. The 2023-24 annual report of the Costa Mesa Tourism & Promotion Business Improvement Area is hereby approved.

Section 3. Types of Activities to Be Funded. The type or types of activities to be funded by and through the annual levy of assessments on businesses within the Costa Mesa Tourism & Promotion Council Business Improvement Area are specified in the referenced annual report and Exhibit B, attached hereto and incorporated herein.

Section 4. Reporting and Remitting to the City of Costa Mesa Finance Department. Each hotel/motel owner shall separate the Business Improvement Assessment from the Transient Occupancy Tax on guest billing statements. The specific term "Business Improvement Assessment" shall be included on the billing to identify the assessment amount. The hotel/motel owner shall collect and subsequently remit the assessment to the Costa Mesa Finance Department at the same time and manner as the Transient Occupancy Tax. A ten percent (10%) penalty and half percent (0.5%) interest will be assessed on late remittances.

Section 5. Method and Basis of Levy. To allow each business owner to estimate the amount of the assessment to be levied against his or her business, the method and basis of levying the assessment are set forth in the annual report relative to the Business Improvement Area, Ordinance No. 95-9, and Exhibit B.

Section 5. Time and Place of Public Hearing. The time and place of the public hearing on the levy of an annual assessment for Fiscal Year 2024-25 shall be 7:00 p.m. on June 4, 2024. At the public hearing set forth above, the testimony of all interested persons for or against the annual levy of the assessment for the Business Improvement Area, the extent of the area, and/or the furnishing of specific types of improvements or activities will be heard by the City Council.

Section 6. Protests. Consistent with California Streets & Highways Code §§ 36524 and 36525, the following rules shall apply to all protests:

- (a) A protest may be made orally or in writing by any interested person. Any protest pertaining to the regularity or sufficiency of the proceedings shall be in writing and shall clearly set forth the irregularity or defect to which the objection is made.
(b) Every written protest shall be filed with the City Clerk's Office, Costa Mesa City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Room 101, Costa Mesa, California 92626, at or before the time fixed for the public hearing as set forth above.
(c) The City Council may waive any irregularity in the form or content of any written protest, and, at the public hearing, may correct minor defects in the proceedings.
(d) A written protest may be withdrawn in writing at any time before the conclusion of the public hearing.
(e) Each written protest shall contain a description of the business in which the person subscribing the protest is interested sufficient to identify the business and, if a person subscribing is not shown on the official records of the City as the owner of the business, the protest shall contain or be accompanied by written evidence that the person subscribing is the owner of the business. A written protest which does not comply with this section shall not be counted in determining a majority protest.
(f) If written protests are received from the owners of businesses in the proposed Business Improvement Area which will pay fifty percent (50%) or more of the assessments to be levied and protests are not withdrawn so as to reduce the protests to less than the fifty percent (50%), no further proceedings on the proposal to continue to levy the Business Improvement Area assessment, as specified by this Resolution, shall be taken by the City Council for a period of one year from the date of the finding of a majority protest.
(g) If the majority protest is only against the furnishing of a specified type or types of improvement or activity within the Business Improvement Area, those types of improvements or activities shall be eliminated.

Section 7. Publication. The City Clerk shall cause this Resolution of Intention to be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in the City at least seven (7) days before the June 4, 2024 public hearing.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 7th day of May, 2024.

John Stephens
John Stephens, Mayor

ATTEST: APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Brenda Green Kimberly Hall Barlow
Brenda Green, City Clerk Kimberly Hall Barlow, City Attorney

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF ORANGE) ss
CITY OF COSTA MESA)

I, BRENDA GREEN, City Clerk of the City of Costa Mesa, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the above and foregoing is the original of Resolution No. 2024-16 and was duly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Costa Mesa at a regular meeting held on the 7th day of May, 2024, by the following roll call vote, to wit:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: CHAVEZ, GAMEROS, HARPER, MARR, REYNOLDS, HARLAN, AND STEPHENS.

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: NONE.

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS: NONE.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereby set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of Costa Mesa this 8th day of May, 2024.

Brenda Green
Brenda Green, City Clerk

EXHIBIT A

The Business Improvement Area ("BIA") benefit zone encompasses the entire City of Costa Mesa boundaries. It is anticipated that the entire City, including businesses and residents, will benefit from increased revenues generated by the activities financed by the BIA assessment.

The following businesses will be included in the BIA that is established pursuant to California Streets and Highways Code sections 36500, et seq., the businesses commonly known as:

Avenue of the Arts, A Tribute Portfolio Hotel

Property Address: 3350 Avenue of the Arts, Costa Mesa
Business Owner: Rosanna Inc.

3350 Avenue of the Arts Costa Mesa, CA 92627
Property Owner: Rosanna Inc.

3350 Avenue of the Arts Costa Mesa, CA 92627

Avres Country Inn & Suites

Property Address: 325 Bristol Street, Costa Mesa
Business Owner: Newport Country Inn & Suites, Inc.

355 Bristol Street, Suite A Costa Mesa, CA 92626
Property Owner: Newport Country Inn & Suites, Inc.

355 Bristol Street, Suite A Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Best Western Plus Newport Mesa Inn

Property Address: 2642 Newport Boulevard, Costa Mesa
Business Owner: James Hsuen

Shang-Pu Lee
2642 Newport Boulevard, Costa Mesa, CA 92627
Property Owner: James Hsuen

Shang-Pu Lee
2642 Newport Boulevard, Costa Mesa, CA 92627

Crowne Plaza

Property Address: 3131 Bristol Street, Costa Mesa
Business Owner: Brighton Management

20342 SW Acacia St. Newport Beach, CA 92660
Property Owner: Bright Bristol Street LLC

3131 Bristol Street Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Hilton

Property Address: 3050 Bristol Street, Costa Mesa
Business Owner: Ashford TRS CM LLC

14185 Dallas Parkway, Suite 1100 Dallas, TX 75254
Property Owner: Remington Lodging & Hospitality LP

Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites

Property Address: 2070 Newport Boulevard, Costa Mesa
Business Owner: Narendra B. Patel

2070 Newport Blvd. Costa Mesa, CA 92667
Property Owner: Narendra B. Patel

2070 Newport Blvd. Costa Mesa, CA 92667

Costa Mesa Marriott

Property Address: 500 Anton Boulevard, Costa Mesa
Business Owner: Starwood Capital Group

591 West Putnam Avenue Greenwich, CT 06830
Property Owner: HEI Hotels & Resorts

101 Merritt 7 Corporate Park, 1st Floor Norwalk, CT 06851

OC Hotel Costa Mesa (Formerly BLVD Hotel)

Property Address: 2430 Newport Boulevard, Costa Mesa
Business Owner: Sai Hospitality Services, LLC

11556 Manchester Way Porter Ranch, CA 91326
Property Owner: Sanjay Panchal

11556 Manchester Way Porter Ranch, CA 91326

Ramada Inn & Suites Costa Mesa

Property Address: 1680 Superior Avenue, Costa Mesa
Business Owner: B.D. Inns Inc./Ramada Ltd.

1680 Superior Ave. Costa Mesa, CA 92627
Property Owner: B.D. Inns Inc./Ramada Ltd.

1680 Superior Ave. Costa Mesa, CA 92627

Residence Inn by Marriott

Property Address: 881 Baker Street, Costa Mesa
Business Owner: Marriott International

10400 Fernwood Rd. Bethesda, MD 20817
Property Owner: BRE Select Hotels and Resorts

6201 15th Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11219

The Westin South Coast Plaza Hotel

Property Address: 686 Anton Boulevard, Costa Mesa
Business Owner: Host Hotels & Resorts

6903 Rockledge Dr., Suite 1500 Bethesda, MD 20817
Property Owner: CJ Segerstrom & Sons

c/o South Coast Plaza 686 Anton Boulevard Costa Mesa, CA 92626

EXHIBIT B

The BIA assessment will be used to fund Travel Costa Mesa ("TCM"). TCM will fund activities to promote tourism in Costa Mesa and will sponsor related tourist events that benefit the hotel and motel businesses within the City.

Revenue

A three percent (3%) levy will be assessed against each of the 11 hotels listed in Exhibit A, based on the net revenue from the sale of overnight room stays.

Business owners shall pay the assessment to the Costa Mesa City Finance Department on a monthly basis. A penalty and interest shall be assessed on late payments.

Note: New hotel and motel businesses commenced after the effective date of this resolution will be exempt from the levy of assessment.

BOYS' TENNIS

Hoffmann, doubles team take CIF titles

BY MATT SZABO

CLAREMONT — Tennis can be a solitary sport, lonely even, but Corona del Mar High senior Niels Hoffmann has always found joy and comfort in the camaraderie of high school tennis.

Some of Hoffmann's teammates and best friends joined him Thursday on the final day of the CIF Southern Section Individuals boys' tennis tournament at Biszantz Family Tennis Center.

In a sparkling four-year career, it was the friendship that the USC-bound Hoffmann would probably remember more than any crazy rally or match. He and the other top singles player on the team, senior Jack Cross, were even born on the same day — Jan. 18, 2006 — at the same Hoag Hospital in Newport Beach and grew up playing tennis together at Palisades Tennis Club.

"I can't say that I would have played high school tennis if it weren't for the people around me," he said. "Some of my best friends are on this team. I was thinking about it this morning. The fact that they're here is just such a privilege. I love these boys."

Cross and CdM's No. 1 doubles team of Jonathan Hinkel and Roger Geng lost in the CIF Individuals semifinals, leaving them available to watch top-seeded Hoffmann face off against No. 2-seeded Beckman freshman Tyler Lee in the title match. He did not disappoint.

Hoffmann defended his title from a year ago, playing aggressive tennis and earning a 6-2, 6-1 victory over Lee in the final match of his high school career.

Marina High junior Trevor Nguyen and sophomore David Tran also impressed



James Carbone

CORONA DEL MAR High's Niels Hoffmann celebrates after winning the 2024 CIF Southern Section Individuals boys' tennis tournament at the Biszantz Family Tennis Center in Claremont on Thursday.

Thursday. Nguyen and Tran, the No. 4 seeds in doubles, beat No. 2-seeded SangHyuk Im and Bradley Yung of University 6-4, 6-3 for the CIF doubles championship.

It's the first time that Marina has won a CIF Individuals championship, in either boys' or girls' tennis.

Hoffmann wouldn't be denied in the final. After three straight breaks of serve to open the match, he won three straight games to take a commanding 5-1 lead. After his serve was broken in the second game of the second set, he won five straight games to win the match going away.

"This is why I play high school tennis," he said. "Of course, the fun of it all and the camaraderie ... but this is game day. This is what we practice for. I love it that I

was able to show up to the occasion, rise to the occasion."

CdM coach Jamie Gresh said that Hoffmann played a good, physical brand of aggressive baseline tennis. In the semifinals, he had rallied from a 3-1 first-set deficit to dispatch No. 4-seeded JSerra freshman Riley Anson 6-4, 6-1.

Hoffmann became the fourth boys' player this century to win back-to-back CIF singles titles, the first since Stefan Dostanic of Woodbridge in 2017 and 2018. He is also the first Sea King boys' tennis player to accomplish the feat in singles.

"His concentration and movement were excellent," Gresh said. "It's a pretty special way to cap off your senior year. I think it's hard to win CIF as a junior, and

it might be even harder to win as a senior when you're the favorite and the defending champion. There's a lot of pressure to defend and repeat, and I think he handled that really well."

Hoffmann ended his career with the two CIF singles titles and two Ojai singles championship appearances, including the title this year. He also helped the Sea Kings as a team reach three straight CIF Southern Section Open Division titles.

"He brings that energy and that effort, every time," Gresh said. "He left a legacy of competing at his finest when CdM needed it the most."

Marina's Nguyen and Tran had upset top-seeded Caleb Settles and Mateen Gharfarshad of Claremont, 6-4, 6-3 in the doubles

semifinals. The match was a rematch of an Ojai doubles semifinal, which was won by the Claremont duo in a tight three sets.

Once they reached the final, Nguyen, a left-hander, and Tran also impressed against the team from University. Im sought his third straight CIF doubles title, with different partners, but the Vikings denied that.

"Surf League is on top, baby," Tran said, referencing Hoffmann's singles win. "It's definitely an unbelievable day. We both played pretty solid tennis today, and I know this meant a lot for our coaches [Chuck Kingman and Cameron Jones] too, since this is the first time that Marina has won this tournament."

Kingman said Nguyen's lefty forehand is one of the heaviest balls he's seen in

his years of coaching.

"They just kind of got on a roll," Kingman said. "They complement each other well. If they get going, they're hard to stop, especially if Trevor gets his confidence and he just starts teeing off on the ball."

The winners of the tournament get to keep the big draw sheets, and Tran said he would hang the sheet up in his room.

But why does he get it, and not Nguyen?

"We played rock paper scissors, and I won," Tran explained with a smile.

In singles semifinal action earlier Thursday, Beckman's Lee rallied for a 4-6, 6-0, 6-1 win over No. 3-seeded Cross from CdM. After a close first set, Lee came out and won 11 games in a row against Cross, who's bound for Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

"To be completely honest, I've played a bunch of really good guys ... and I've never been blitzed that hard," Cross said. "He probably hit 35 winners to like six unforced errors in the second two sets, which is a stat that's almost impossible [to overcome]. He took the racket out of my hands; too good."

Hinkel and Geng did well to force a third set in the doubles semifinals against Im and Yung, but the University tandem earned a 6-2, 5-7, 6-1 victory. Hinkel, who will play next year at Irvine Valley College, advanced the furthest in his career after making the doubles quarterfinals with Jack Knox as a sophomore and the round of 16 with Geng last year.

"Roger and I had such a good season, it's kind of hard to be mad about that," Hinkel said. "He's become one of my best friends."

matthewszabo@latimes.com
Twitter: @mjszabo



Download the app. Discover more of The Times.

Use your camera to scan the QR code.

Tap the link when it appears to be directed to your device's app store.

Hit download and start exploring.

